

114

The Resolution taken by the Confederat Princes, and other Allied Powers, in Relation to France.

HAVING Resolved to make this year, a Descent into *France*, that by so attacking our common Enemy where our Efforts may be most sensibly felt, We may the more easily Reduce him to Reason: In order thereunto, We first, all Solemnly Swear, and Protest before God, that we will make no Peace with *Lewis* the Fourteenth, but upon the conditions Stipulated by the Articles of the *Pyrenean*, and *Westphalian* Treaties which have been violated by *France*; and upon other agreements which we have hereunto subjoyned, which though they be partly the Fundamental Rights of the *French* Nation, and partly privileges confirmed by the most solemn Edicts, have been with no less violence and injustice infringed.

(I)

Till the General Estates of the Kingdom be restored to their ancient Liberties, Power and share in the Legislative and Supream Power; and till both the Clergy, Nobility, and Third Estate be reinstated in all their former Legal priviledges; and till there be good provision made, that all Kings of *France* in time to come, shall be obliged to convoke the said Estates, when they shall need Money for any publick concerns, and shall have no more power, in any manner, or upon any pretence whatsoever, to raise any Taxes, or any sorts of Imposts without their consent.

(II)

Till the several Courts of Parliament in the Kingdom be reinstated into that sufficient and Legal authority with which they were primarily invested, That so without being newed by any Check from an Arbitrary power, or being obstructed by the corruption ordinarily arising from undue and illegal Promotions to those high Posts of Judicature, they may be both able, and well inclined to do Justice indifferently to all Parties.

Till all the Cities of the Kingdom be restored to their old Charters and Priviledges, and to the Revenue assigned for their support, and the publick good of their several Corporations which have been so wantonly, and unjustly ravished from them.

I V.

Till all those Swarms of Caterpillars of Monopolists, pernicious Publicans, and Farmers of Royal Revenues, and other oppressed undertakers be removed; and all the illegal and new invented Charges and Taxes be taken off, as in particular, the irregular Lodging and Quarters both of Courtiers and Soldiers, the Exactions for Winter quarters, and Salaries of Governors, and multitude of their Debts, and private businesses of the Crown, unnecessarily and without Authority charged upon particular persons, Towns or Cities, and which enter not into the State or Accounts of the publick Revenues; of extraordinary excises upon Wine, Cider, and other Liquors, the Gabels upon Corn, and Flour, upon hooved Beasts, and Salt, the unreasonable and unexampled Imposts upon the Marks of Paper, Money, and all Utensils, or Moveables made of Metal, upon Hatt, Silk-Stockings, Wools, and woollen Manufactures; Shoes, Suppers, wooden Shoes, and all sorts of Linen, and Furrwigs, as also upon Tobacco, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, &c. Upon all Manufactures of Silk, and upon all the Estates and Goods of Noble or Gentlemen every five Years, the Taxe of the *Frank Fife*, and several other oppressive exactions upon the Buyers and Sellers, or Morgagers of Lands, Houses, &c. And upon the Officers of the Courts of Judicature, and of the Treasury and Exchequer, of the Injustious, and Arbitrary Retrenchment of Wages, raising

or lowering the value, and debasing the purity of Money and Coin, and unjust Re-union to the Crown, Lands and Possessions long enjoyed by great and deserving Families, upon dispotical Pretences, and besides an infinite many other new and unheard of Exactions; of the strange impositions upon Marriages, Christnings, Buryings, and Bastards, &c. And to conclude all in a word; Till the Revenues of the Crown be fixed, and reduced within such certain and moderate Bounds as shal seem most requisite to the Wisdom of the General Estates when Convened; and good provision be made that no succeeding French Monarchs shal ever pass those Bounds.

V.

Till he has rendered to all the Protestants of his Kingdoms the Estates, Effects, and Liberties they were seized of by vertue of the Edict of Nantz, and all other privileges they enjoyed thereby according to the true meaning, and to the full extent of the said Edict: And till for their future security both in their Civil and Religious Rights and Capacities, according to the meaning of the said Edict, the said French King shall have delivered some sufficient Cautionry, Towns to be held and Fortified by those Protestant Allies that shall be made Guardians, or Conservators of the Treaty to be agreed upon.

VI.

And Lastly, We Declare, as in the sight of GOD, That in these our just Attempts, We are not actuated by any hatred or animosity against the French Nation, nor by any ambitious designs to Conquer or Seize on any of the Antient and Lawful Dominions of France, or to dismember that Monarchy of any of the Provinces justly belonging to it, but that Our ultimate aim is only to repress that exorbitant Power whereby that Crown has been enabled hitherto to oppress its own Subjects, and threaten the Liberty of all Europe besides; And that We advance towards the Frontiers of France, with as hearty an intention to Right the Wrongs of its Subjects, as those of our own People, esteeming the re-establishment of their just and antient Liberties, to be the best Bulwark of our own, against our and their common Oppressor; And that therefore, We do friendly and heartily invite them to come in to us, and to join their Arms and other Assistance with us, towards their Deliverance, assuring them we will treat them as our best Friends, and will take care to preserve their Persons, Towns, and Lands, and all that shal concern them, as if they were our own; But at the same time we have thought fit also to Declare to all that shall not comply with our Invitations, and assistances intended for their common good, That We shall distinguish them for Enemies of their Country, and of all sort of Christianity and Humanity, and as barbarous Wretches that have abetted and approved all the Persecutions, Burnings, Desolations, and other Vexations which have been committed by those of their own Nation, both within and without France, and shall make them feel without mercy those pains which their inhumane Countrey-men have made so many thousands of miserable People suffer.

And We have thought fit to make publick this Our Declaration, that all the World might know the sincerity of our Resolution, and particularly those of the French Nation, which groan under the intollerable Oppression of the present Government there, and who with the loss of their Liberty, have redoubled their desires of Recovering it again, that they may be informed to whom, and with what confidence and assurance, they may apply themselves, in this great opportunity offered them by the Just and Almighty GOD, to Regain their antient Freedom and Privileges, which have been so long, and so cruelly extorted and detained from them.

F I N I S.

Edinburgh, Re-printed in the Year, 1692.